

In the Claims

Claims 1-37 (Canceled)

1
38. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~conducting a game of chance~~
facilitating play of a group game, comprising:

in each of a plurality of plays of a ~~game of chance~~ individual games played by
a plurality of players at respective gaming machines, ~~randomly~~ generating an outcome
for the ~~game of chance~~ individual game, the outcome being one of a plurality of
outcomes including at least one specific outcome;

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displaying at least one group of cells, each cell in said at least one group of
cells earmarkable capable of being designated with a designator ~~responsive to a player~~
~~of the game of chance~~ in response to any player of the plurality of players achieving
said the at least one specific outcome, wherein the designator indicates the gaming
machine at which the at least one specific outcome was generated; and

earmarking designating a cell of said at least one group of cells with ~~said the~~
designator responsive to each occurrence of said at least one specific outcome.

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39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising
determining at least one payout to the plurality of players in relation to ~~a number~~
respective numbers of earmarked designated cells of a first group of cells of the said
at least one group of cells that correspond to each gaming machine.

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40. (Canceled)

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41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 ~~39~~ 2, wherein said
determining the at least one payout comprises apportioning ~~said the~~ at least one
payout according to ~~said number the of each of said unique identifiers in said~~
earmarked cells respective numbers of designations in the designated cells of the first
group of cells that correspond to each gaming machine.

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42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41, further comprising distributing said the at least one payout among the plurality of players of said plurality according to said players of said plurality according to said number of each of said unique identifiers in said earmarked cells the respective numbers of designations in the designated cells of the first group of cells that correspond to each gaming machine.

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43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein said the at least one group of cells comprises two or more rows of cells.

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44. (Currently Amended) The method of claims 43, further comprising providing an award value associated with each row of said the two or more rows of cells.

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45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising configuring said the at least one group of cells as a group of playing card indicia and providing a playing card indicia of said the group of playing card indicias indicia for each cell of said at least one group of cells.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein said game of chance the individual game comprises draw poker.

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47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein said the at least one group of cells comprises four rows of cells, each row of cells comprising a row of playing card indicia, each row of playing card indicia comprising a different suit.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein each different suit of said the row of playing card indicia comprises a hand including a Royal Flush.

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~~49.~~ (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~48~~, wherein ~~said~~
~~earmarking~~ a designating the cell comprises ~~earmarking~~ designating a playing card
indicia.

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~~50.~~ (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~49~~, wherein ~~earmarking~~
~~said~~ designating the playing card indicia comprises crowning ~~said~~ the playing card
indicia.

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Claims 51-63 (Canceled)

13
~~64.~~ (New) A group gaming method, comprising:
receiving wagers from a plurality of players at respective gaming machines;
determining outcomes of individual games played by the plurality of players at
the respective gaming machines;
displaying an image representative of a group game played by the plurality of
players at the respective gaming machines, wherein the group game includes taking a
first plurality of steps toward a first group goal, wherein each step of the first plurality
of steps is attributable to any of the respective gaming machines of the plurality of
players;
for each outcome from a first set of outcomes, displaying an image
representative of taking one step of the first plurality of steps towards the first group
goal, wherein the image representative of taking the one step of the first plurality of
steps towards the first group goal includes a designation indicative of the respective
gaming machine at which the outcome from the first set of outcomes was determined;
providing a value payout associated with the group game based on the
outcomes of the individual games played by the plurality of players at the respective
gaming machines.

~~14~~ 65. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~64~~¹³, wherein the image representative of the group game comprises a plurality of cells, wherein each cell of the plurality of cells corresponds to each step of the first plurality of steps;

wherein displaying the image representative of taking one step of the first plurality of steps towards the first group goal comprises designating the cell of the plurality of cells corresponding to the step of the first plurality of steps with the designation indicative of the respective gaming machine at which the outcome from the first set of outcomes was determined.

~~16~~ 66. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~65~~¹⁴, wherein the plurality of cells are arranged in an order;

wherein designating the cell of the plurality of cells comprises designating a next cell in the order from the plurality of cells.

~~16~~ 2 ~~14~~ 67. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~66~~¹⁴, wherein each outcome of the first set of outcomes corresponds to a respective cell of the plurality of cells.

~~17~~ 68. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~67~~¹⁴, wherein designating the cell of the plurality of cells comprises removing a previous designation, if any.

~~14~~ 69. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~67~~¹⁴, wherein designating the cell of the plurality of cells comprises not designating the cell if the cell was previously designated.

~~19~~ 70. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~67~~¹⁴, wherein designating the cell of the plurality of cells comprises designating the cell if the cell was previously designated, wherein the designated cell of the plurality of cells has associated therewith multiple designations.

²⁰
~~21.~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~64~~¹³, wherein the first group goal includes achieving a predetermined number of outcomes from the first set of outcomes.

²¹
~~72.~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~64~~¹³, wherein the first group goal includes achieving each outcome from the first set of outcomes at least once.

²²
~~73.~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~64~~¹³, wherein the group game includes taking a second plurality of steps toward a second group goal, wherein each step of the second plurality of steps is attributable to any of the respective gaming machines of the plurality of players;

^{B²}
the method further comprising, for each outcome from a second set of outcomes, displaying an image representative of taking one step of the second plurality of steps towards the second group goal, wherein the image representative of taking the one step of the second plurality of steps towards the second group goal includes a designation indicative of the respective gaming machine at which the outcome from the second set of outcomes was determined.

²³
~~74.~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~73~~²², wherein the first group goal has associated therewith a first value payout, and wherein the second group goal has associated therewith a second value payout.

²⁴
~~75.~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~64~~¹³, further comprising in response to outcomes from the first set of outcomes, attributing steps of the first plurality of steps to the players at whose gaming machines the outcomes were determined;

wherein providing the value payout comprises apportioning the value payout among a set of players of the plurality of players to whom steps of the first plurality of steps are attributed.

~~76~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~75~~, wherein apportioning the value payout among the set of players is based on the number of steps of the first plurality of steps attributed to each player of the set of players.

~~77~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~75~~, wherein each step of the first plurality of steps is capable of being attributed to multiple players;

wherein each step of the first plurality of steps corresponds to a portion of the value payout;

wherein apportioning the value payout among a set of players comprises apportioning each portion of the value payout to the one or more players attributed to the step corresponding to the portion of the value payout.

~~78~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~77~~, wherein each step of the first plurality of steps is capable of being attributed to a single player multiple times;

wherein apportioning each portion of the value payout is based on the number of times a player is attributed to the step corresponding to the portion of the value payout.

~~79~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~64~~, wherein the individual games comprises at least one of a reel-type slot machine game, a poker game, a blackjack game, a keno game, a lotto game, and a bingo game.

~~80~~ (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~64~~, further comprising displaying an image representative of an individual game played by one of the plurality of players.

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81. (New) A group gaming method, comprising:

receiving wagers from a plurality of players at respective gaming machines;

determining outcomes of individual games played by the plurality of players at the respective gaming machines;

displaying an image representative of a group game played by the plurality of players at the respective gaming machines, wherein the image representative of the group game comprises a first plurality of cells corresponding to a first group goal, wherein each cell of the first plurality of cells is attributable to any of the respective gaming machines of the plurality of players;

for each outcome from a first set of outcomes, designating a cell of the first plurality of cells with a designation indicative of the respective gaming machine at which the outcome from the first set of outcomes was determined;

providing a value payout associated with the group game based on the outcomes of the individual games played by the plurality of players at the respective gaming machines.

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82. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 81, wherein the first group goal includes achieving a predetermined number of outcomes from the first set of outcomes.

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83. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 82, wherein a number of designated cells of the first plurality of cells corresponds to a number of outcomes from the first set of outcomes achieved by the plurality of players.

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84. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 83, wherein the first plurality of cells are arranged in an order;

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wherein designating the cell of the first plurality of cells comprises designating a next cell in the order.

~~24~~ 85. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 84, wherein the image representative of the group game includes a ladder, the ladder comprising the first plurality of cells, the ladder having a bottom and a top;

wherein designating the cell from the first plurality of cells comprises designating the next undesignated cell from the bottom of the ladder.

~~35~~ 86. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~85~~ 31, further comprising:

if the next undesignated cell is designated, displaying an image of a figure on the ladder moving toward the top by one cell.

~~32~~ 87. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~84~~ 33, wherein the image representative of the group game includes a lane, the lane comprising the first plurality of cells, the lane having a beginning and an end;

wherein designating the cell from the first plurality of cells comprises designating the next undesignated cell from the beginning of the lane.

~~37~~ 88. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~87~~ 34, further comprising:

if the next undesignated cell is designated, displaying an image of an object on the lane moving toward the end by one cell.

~~38~~ 89. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~88~~ 37, wherein the object on the lane is a car.

~~39~~ 90. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~81~~ 39, wherein each cell of the first plurality of cells corresponds to at least one outcome from the first set of outcomes.

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91. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 90, wherein the achieving the first group goal corresponds to designating all of the cells in the first plurality of cells.

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92. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 91, wherein designating the cell of the first plurality of cells comprises removing a previous designation, if any.

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93. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 91, wherein designating the cell of the first plurality of cells comprises not designating the cell if the cell was previously designated.

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94. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 91, wherein the image representative of the group game includes a plurality of playing cards, wherein each playing card of the plurality of playing cards comprises a respective cell of the first plurality of cells;

wherein designating the cell from the first plurality of cells comprises designating a playing card from the plurality of playing cards.

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95. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 94, wherein designating the playing card comprises displaying a crown on the playing card.

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96. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 91, wherein providing the value payout comprises providing the value payout when all of the cells of the first plurality of cells have been designated.

46
97. (New) A group gaming method according to claim 96, wherein providing the value payout comprises apportioning the value payout among players whose gaming machine corresponds to at least one of the designated cells.

47. ~~48~~ ~~97~~
98. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~97~~, wherein the value payout is apportioned based on the numbers of cells corresponding to each gaming machine.

48. ~~49~~ ~~98~~
99. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~98~~, wherein each cell is capable of being designated to multiple gaming machines;

wherein each cell of the first plurality of cells corresponds to a portion of the value payout;

wherein apportioning the value payout comprises apportioning each portion of the value payout to players whose gaming machines correspond to the designated cell associated with the portion of the value payout.

B 49. ~~50~~ ~~99~~
100. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~99~~, wherein each cell of the first plurality of cells is capable of being attributed to a single player multiple times;

wherein apportioning each portion of the value payout is based on the number of designations for each gaming machine corresponding to the designated cell associated with the portion of the value payout.

50. ~~51~~ ~~100~~
101. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~81~~, further comprising displaying an image representative of an individual game played by one of the plurality of players.

51. ~~52~~ ~~101~~
102. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~81~~, wherein the image representative of the group game comprises a second plurality of cells corresponding to a second group goal, wherein each cell of the second plurality of cells is attributable to any of the respective gaming machines of the plurality of players;

the method further comprising, for each outcome from a second set of outcomes, designating a cell of the second plurality of cells with a designation indicative of the respective gaming machine at which the outcome from the second set of outcomes was determined.

52 ~~101~~
103. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~102~~⁵¹, wherein the value payout comprises a first value payout associated with the first group goal and a second value payout associated with the second group goal;

wherein providing the value payout comprises providing the first value payout if the first group goal is achieved, and providing the second value payout if the second group goal is achieved.

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104. (New) A group gaming method according to claim ~~81~~³, wherein the first individual game comprises at least one of a reel-type slot machine game, a poker game, a blackjack game, a keno game, a lotto game, and a bingo game.

54 ~~100~~
105. (New) A group gaming system comprising:
a plurality of gaming machines, each gaming machine of the plurality of gaming machines comprising:

a gaming machine controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to the processor, the gaming machine controller configured to:

receive a respective wager from a respective player;

display a respective image representative of a respective individual game played by the respective player;

determine a respective outcome of the respective individual game, the respective outcome of the respective individual game from a plurality of possible outcomes;

provide at least a portion of a value payout associated with a group game;

a display device comprising a display screen operatively coupled to a display device processor, the display device processor configured to:

display an image representative of the group game played by the players at the plurality of gaming machines, wherein the group game includes taking a first plurality of steps toward a first group goal, wherein each step of the first plurality of steps is attributable to any of the gaming machines of the respective players,

for each outcome of the individual games from a first set of outcomes, display an image representative of taking one step of the first plurality of steps towards the first group goal, wherein the image representative of taking the one step of the first plurality of steps towards the first group goal includes a designation indicative of the gaming machine at which the outcome from the first set of outcomes was determined.